



# COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

## Press Release

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### Lightner Urges City to Take Control of Water Destiny

*New policy focuses on creating a sustainable water supply*

SAN DIEGO – Councilmember Sherri Lightner today will present to the San Diego City Council her Comprehensive Water Policy, which will serve as a blueprint for how San Diego can tackle its long-term water needs.

The policy calls for a cohesive strategy that incorporates a wide range of water sources and practices including conservation, cutting-edge technologies such as desalination and advanced water treatment, along with graywater and rainwater collection and regional cooperation.

“There is no one solution for a problem this big. We must use all the tools available to us,” said Councilmember Lightner. “Having a sustainable water supply is critical not only to our quality of life but to our economy as well.”

Prior to the introduction of Lightner’s policy, the City Council had a mish-mash of outdated and contradictory policies – some more than two decades old – that failed to take into account emerging water technologies.

Council President Tony Young commended Lightner’s work on the water policy.

“With her engineering background, Sherri was uniquely suited to take on this complex but vital issue. Because of her commitment, technical know-how and eye for detail, San Diego is better prepared to meet its long-term water needs head on,” said Council President Young.

Lightner developed the Policy through an extensive outreach effort, meeting with more than 25 stakeholder groups including the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Coastkeeper as well as working closely with the Mayor’s and City Attorney’s offices.

Paul Webster, vice president of public policy for the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, praised Lightner’s commitment to an open process that included listening to San Diego’s business community.

“This policy is a great start to solving San Diego’s water needs. I’m pleased that Councilmember Lightner took the time to consider the needs and interests of Chamber members,” Webster said. “It is a critical first step in creating a sustainable water supply for San Diego.”

Gabriel Solmer, advocacy director for San Diego Coastkeeper, said the policy sets the stage for a more coordinated approach to water issues in the city.

“Councilmember Lightner’s policy is a good start to developing safe, reliable, sustainable and cost-effective water supply options for our region,” Solmer said. “We look forward to working with her to ensure successful implementation of this comprehensive policy.”

Lightner said the next step is to create a task force to work with the community and all interested stakeholders to create a plan of action that includes goals, timelines and measurements of success.

“Now is the time for us all to join together and take control of our water destiny,” Lightner said.

*Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.*

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